

ST. PHILIP'S CHURCH IN THE HIGHLANDS
1101 ROUTE 9D + P.O. BOX 158
GARRISON, NY 10524
STPHILIPSHIGHLANDS.ORG
(845) 424-3571

YouthMinistry Liaison
Report to Vestry

Date:2/17/2021

Author: Jennifer Sandlund

Action Items Completed:

Cross Trainers:

On 1/24 we had a virtual gift exchange that was postponed from last month. We also discussed the idea of the Cross Trainers performing the Passion much the same way the Nativity pageant was done this year.

On 2/14 we gathered at the Parish House to assemble the Mardi Gras gift bags. Items were purchased, beads and a festive mask, and copies of Forward Day by Day and Lenten Meditations were included along with a piece of King Cake. The kids dined on pancakes and sausages. Last year they had hosted a coffee hour for Mardi Gras that had also featured pancakes but they were unfortunately unable to make the pancakes themselves this time, which is something they always enjoy. Some of the kids gathered again on Tuesday, 2/16, to hand out the bags during the Mardi Gras Drive-Thru. We had approximately 10 cars come thru and then the bags were also made available to be picked up by parishioners the next day and many more were distributed. A very fun activity for all!

Notes from the Sunday School:

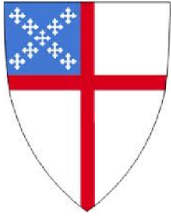
Sunday School continues to focus on the family service every 4th Sunday of the month, with supported activities and lessons focused around that service's readings and scripture. The Shrove Tuesday "Mardi Gras" drive thru and upcoming possibility of a passion play by older church youth are both events that include Sunday School students as participants. Additionally, as Cross Trainer Dylan Horan arranged a personal needs drive for the Philipstown Food Pantry, Phoebe Geer looped in the Sunday School families on the opportunity to donate something and have meaningful conversation with our children about the types of assistance that

families may face/how we can help by providing essential items like paper towels, cleaning supplies, hand soap, etc to other families. Many Sunday School parents reported that they and their children took part.

Action Items In Progress/Pending:

Cross Trainers: Our next meeting will be a discussion of the life of Absalom Jones. The diocese has postponed the planned virtual meeting to educate youth about Absalom Jones, and we hope our discussion will encourage our kids to participate in this event in March. We are also starting discussions with Carolyn Copeland about the Cross Trainers participation in the performance of the Passion for Palm Sunday.

Items Requiring Vestry Vote:



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NURSERY SCHOOL Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: 2/16/21

Author: Sarah Bayne

The Search Committee for the SPNS Director, consisting of me, Allison Pataki, and Kate Calligaro, is nearing the end of its work, having interviewed over 10 applicants via Zoom, reviewed applications from Indeed, Carney Sandoe and Associates, and other sources. With four semi finalist candidates, we have narrowed the search to two very qualified finalists, both local. These two have met the entire faculty and staff of the school, Anita, Phoebe Geer, Amanda and Terri, Jennifer and Fred from the Vestry, and this week will be meeting parents on two separate Zoom meetings. References have been contacted. The new director would start in the late spring and work alongside Anita, with the plan for them to work together and effect a smooth transition.

The Strategic Plan Committee has met to discuss the status of the search and future plans for the school, especially how much to raise tuition, comparing tuitions for all local schools and also those with church affiliation (St. Matthews in Bedford), plans for communicating with and involving parents on fundraising and the realities of the costs of running the school, how to plan for an afternoon program in the future, among other areas. A new Montessori school in Cold Spring is being started by someone known in the community, and its tuition is high. It does not appear to have a program for 2 year olds for which there is significant interest.

See attached letter invitation sent to parents for the Zoom meetings this week.

St. Philip's Director Search Committee News

Dear St. Philip's Nursery School parents:

I write this as you are having yet one more snow day and heading into the February break! You may be aware that since November, the Search Committee for the Director of St. Philip's Nursery School has been hard at work interviewing potential candidates for the difficult job of following interim director, Anita Prentice.

We are immensely grateful to Anita for her leadership and guidance this past year and have been searching nationally as well as locally for an experienced leader who could measure up to her standards.

The search committee consists of myself, and two present parents: Allison Pataki Levy, and Kate Calligaro. Together we have interviewed over 10 applicants on Zoom, and read many more applications.

We are pleased to announce that we have now narrowed an impressive pool of applicants to two highly qualified finalists for the position, and would like to invite you as parents to meet them both next week via Zoom.

We want to hear from as many members of our community as possible while making this important decision. In addition to meeting parents, finalists are being interviewed for input by faculty and staff, St. Philip's rector, Amanda Eiman, Senior Warden Terri Akbas, two additional Vestry members, and of course you all as parents.

We hope to hear from you! We are planning one Zoom meeting for each finalist, both to take place at 4:30 pm for 45 minutes on two separate days next week and hope you will consider attending both sessions if you can: **Kristin Jarvis**, Wednesday 2/17 @ 4:30 pm, and **Betsy Alberty**, Thursday 2/18 @ 4:30 pm. In the meantime, here is a bit more information on each candidate: Zoom invitations are listed at the bottom of this letter.

Betsy Alberty, who lives in Cortlandt Manor, has been most recently director of the Little Blessings Preschool in Mount Kisco, and the Yorktown Presbyterian Preschool in Yorktown Heights. She was also the Educational Coordinator for Adelphi University's Early Learning Center, and the field trip coordinator for the Planting Fields Foundation in Oyster Bay. She has extensive preschool and Kindergarten teaching experience. Betsy has an MS in Elementary Education.

Kristin Jarvis, known to many at St. Philip's, has taught at St. Philip's since 2018, and also attended the school as a child. Before moving to the Hudson Valley, she taught first grade in Brooklyn at the Beacon School of Excellence, where she developed curriculum and was a teacher/leader. She also taught kindergarten for 6 years while living in Georgia. She is musically talented in singing, guitar and piano. Kristin has an MA in teaching.

After the meetings, I hope you will contact us and let us know your thoughts on these candidates.

Sincerely,

Sarah Bayne
Chair, Search Committee

Sarah Bayne is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Wednesday Parent meeting

Topic: Meet Kristin Jarvis

Time: Feb 17, 2021 04:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83918562548>

Meeting ID: 839 1856 2548

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,83918562548# US (New York)

Meeting ID: 839 1856 2548

Thursday Parent meeting

Sarah Bayne is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Meet Betsy Alberty

Time: Feb 18, 2021 04:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83082981297>

Meeting ID: 830 8298 1297

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,83082981297# US (New York)



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Service to Others *Liaison Report to Vestry*

Date: February 16,2021

Author:Joe Plummer

Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month:San Miguel Academy restarted tutoring effort on Zoom. Volunteers are Anne Osborn,Marianne Benjamin,Dan and Hildy Potts. Clubs on saturday mornings may resume in the near future if numbers improve.

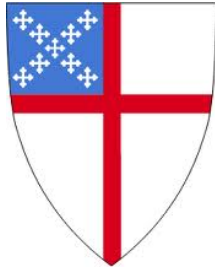
Salvation Army in Peekskill may restart lunch program in May.

We are continuing to collect PPE for Graymoor and books for Hedgewood.

The vestry collected sample personal items for the Midnight Run to NYC by the Presbyterian Church. Thank you all so much.

Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending: Nothing

Items Requiring Vestry Vote:Nothing



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Buildings and Grounds Committee Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: February 20, 2021

Author: Paul Kantor

Action Items Completed:

Initiation of new routine cleanup/maintenance assignments by Manney and Marcello.

Action Items In-Progress/Pending:

Weekly church heat start responsibilities during winter months among B and G members were started in January.

Monitoring of heat and humidity: report by Edgar makes clear that the church needs a humidification system in order to meet the organ manufacturer's warranty standards of care. 40% humidity level during winter months is probably required, and so all agreed that a steam unit is likely to be most appropriate to humidify a church space of approximately 33,000 cubic feet. Engineering expertise will be consulted regarding a specific fix of this kind. Given this high priority objective, the committee determined that it would be essential to install water and waste pipes in a common channel to the church building. Examination of temporary alternatives for bringing water to the building were all considered impractical or uneconomic.

A proposal for using existing generator for emergency power at rectory was discussed. Chris N suggested that this generator would be sufficient to power 5-6 circuits. He is planning to make the generator operational and look into installing a crossover switch and perhaps place the generator in a nearby shed for weather protection.

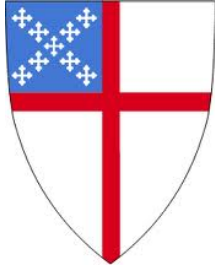
Chris N's preliminary plan and estimates for handicapped access to PH and bathroom in Parish House was discussed. Further examination of appropriate walkway improvements would complete the proposal, but the committee agreed that the project should be brought forward to the vestry for their consideration during 2021.

A proposal to improve lighting in the church to enhance video recording was discussed. The committee agreed that refocusing existing lights would probably be sufficient to increase lighting for recording and broadcasting purposes.

Fire department advice for installing signage for the different campus buildings was discussed. Further consideration of signage alternatives and possible mapping at entrance was proposed. Jennifer Sandlund would be consulted on this subject. In addition, the installation of a recommended Knox box to enable fire department emergency access and a PH alarm would be investigated by Jim B.

Items Requiring Vestry Vote:

NA



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WORSHIP Liaison Report to Vestry

Date: Tuesday 16th February 2021 – “Fat Tuesday”

Author: Fred Osborn

Ministry/Action Items Completed this Month: Worship remains mostly remote as the coronavirus pandemic lockdown grinds on. Professional-grade video production values, interim organist, single singer, lay readers, eucharist in an abbreviated form in which the celebrant brings only the host to the congregant – no wine. Zoom coffee hour gatherings have been added in recent weeks, providing an opportunity for parishioners to catch up with one another. Very welcome. Special services at noon and 7pm on Ash Wednesday, but no imposition of ashes.

Ministry/Action Items in Progress/Pending: Grin and bear it. Action item: pray for the lockdown to end.

Items Requiring Vestry ~~Vote~~ Thoughts: Thanks to the Rector for her stamina, to the television managers, Will Felder and Daniel Bentley (and congratulations to Daniel for becoming a US Citizen!); thanks to the lay readers, to the Sunday Singers, and to the Cross Trainers for hosting a Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras drive-through.